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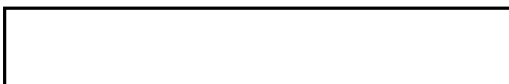
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State Dept. review completed

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\*Panama: A showdown in the National Assembly on the impeachment of President Robles may be put off for several days.

The assembly meeting planned for 6 March was not held, and no definite date has been set for a new session.

[redacted] the commission appointed to investigate the charges against Robles may be allowed the entire ten days permitted by law to collect evidence.

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A National Union deputy close to Arias told an embassy officer that Arias has instructed his followers to proceed "in a completely legal manner" to avoid any pretext for National Guard intervention in the impeachment process. Arias is probably moving cautiously because he is unsure of Guard support in upholding an impeachment decision.

[redacted] Robles received a summons yesterday to answer the investigating commission's charges within forty-eight hours. In a televised speech scheduled today, Robles is expected to refuse the summons. Despite his intransigent public stand, the President reportedly began trying to revive negotiations yesterday, and Guard Commandant Vallarino is continuing to press for a compromise.

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[redacted]

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Some minor disorders by government supporters occurred last night. Although Guard units acted quickly to restore order, partisans of both sides are keeping up a show of strength in the streets and a rash move by either side could easily touch off more serious trouble.

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[redacted]

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UK-Rhodesia: Rhodesia's execution of three Africans despite a royal reprieve removes any possibility of negotiations with the present Rhodesian regime for the near future.

The executions deepen an already marked cleavage between London and Salisbury. [REDACTED]

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The go-ahead order for the executions came after a lengthy cabinet meeting in Salisbury, suggesting there may have been marked differences of opinion. The outcome, however, could well encourage white extremists to press for early action on Rhodesia's becoming a republic.

The executions also give the Afro-Asians another opportunity to press Britain for stronger measures against Rhodesia. [REDACTED]

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NOTES

Communist China: The imminent return of the Chinese ambassador to Paris probably signals resumption of a more normal level of diplomatic representation. Chinese chiefs of mission and other senior diplomats have, for the most part, remained in Peking since their recall during the early stages of the Cultural Revolution. Premier Chou En-lai reportedly indicated in a speech last month that the majority of ambassadors were to be sent back to their posts, particularly to missions in Africa and Asia, by the end of March.

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